

A 3 *l c*
LETTER *11*

TO A *722*

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT *1-4*

In the NORTH;

CONCERNING

Scandal and Defamation.

WITH

General REMARKS on the MINISTRY, ROYAL-SOCIETY, &c.

And TASTE of the Town.

Cœlum non Animum mutant, qui trans mare currunt.

HOR.

*There is a Lust in Man no Charm can tame,
Of loudly publishing his Neighbour's Shame;
On Eagle's Wings immortal Scandals fly,
Whilst virtuous Actions are but born and die.*

HARVEY.

By THOMAS FRANK, Φιλίατρος.

L O N D O N,

Printed for A. MILLAR, at Buchanan's-
Head, against St. Clement's-Church in the Strand.

M DCC XXXII.

LETTER

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

In the W. O. R. T. H. A. 2

22nd Feb 1892



DAVID H. M. A. S. E. R. A. N. K.

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Honourable Sir,

IN Compliance with yours
of the second Instant, where-
in you desired an Account
of what had been published since
you was last in Town, whether in
the daily and weekly Papers, or o-
ther occasional Performances, with
my Opinion of them, I have wrote
you the ensuing Letter; which I
hope may divert you a few Minutes,
in the Intervals of those painful Pa-
roxysms, caused by the most terri-
ble of all chronical Diseases the
Gout: I have been somewhat more
large in Consideration of the small
Quantity I have sent you down,
notwith-

notwithstanding the great Numbers that weekly spring from the Press: But as they contain little else than unjust and personal Reflexion, drest up with the most flagrant Altercation, I know they would be very offensive to your generous and refined Taste; and more especially so, as they are designed against the most worthy and deserving Heroes of the Age; and in particular against him to whom next under our most gracious Sovereign, (whose Reign has been one continued Scene of Goodness to his People,) we owe our present Happiness, *viz.* a general Peace, free Commerce Abroad, and once more a flourishing Trade at Home; the only Supports, and greatest Blessings these Nations can ever enjoy.

But

But this, Sir, is a needless Remark to you, who being a Member of the same Honourable House, must be fully convinced of his great Worth, and the Obligations not only these Nations but all *Europe* lie under to his Conduct in preventing the Effusion of so much Blood and Treasure, in a hazardous and cruel War.

But I proceed, in Duty to your Commands, and am,

Sir,

Your most Obedient

Humble Servant,

THOMAS FRANK.

REMARKS

But this Sir is a needed Re-
mark to you, who being a Member
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Your most Obedient

Attendant

THOMAS FRANKLIN

REMARKS



REMARKS

ON

SLANDER, &c.

S. I. R.,



WITH a great deal of Indignation and Surprize, I behold in most of the Papers published, a Spirit of Envy, Scandal and Detraction run through them ; pointing either

ther at whole Communities, or particular Persons ; and this by a Sett of Men who daily appeal to the People, as being Advocates for Liberty, Friends to Mankind in general, Patrons of their Countrey, and a Number of such pompous but false Epithets.

Strange ! that the greatest Blessing we enjoy, and have in all Ages struggled to maintain, that we term sacred, &c. should be made use of for so base an End, as publickly to attack the Characters of our Superiors, and without any other Reason than because they are so.

History indeed of all Ages informs us, that whenever there has appear'd a great and uncommon Genius, who through the Mirror of Fame had attracted the Eyes of the World, at the same Time has arisen

sen an ill-natured one; who to the utmost of his Power endeavour'd to Eclipse his rising Glory, having no other way of perpetuating his Name to Posterity, but by the blackest of Crimes, Ingratitude; which the learned Author * of the Travels of *Cyrus*, calls Corruption of the Heart; and doubtless it is from Men of this Saturnian Temper, that all those Calamities and Miseries that perplex and torment Mankind proceed. Well therefore might *Zoroaster* † say of that Planet, “ that it was inhabited by the slothful gloomy *Genii*, who love Solitude and Darkness, who hate Society, and waste their Days in an eternal Discontent; from hence, says he, flow all hellish malicious

* Mr. *Ramsay*.

† Travels of *Cyrus*, Vol. I. Page 3.

“ Projects, perfidious Treasons, and
 “ murderous Devices.

And of Kin to the Inhabitants of
 this Orb, seem a great many of the
 Authors of the present Age; who,
 if we may judge of them by their
 Writings, appear to be utter stran-
 gers to the common Laws of Ho-
 nour and Humanity.

I would not be thought hereby to
 point at particular Men, but at their
 particular Vices, which is a Thirst of
 flandering, and turning into Ridi-
 cule every thing that is great or
 sacred; and from hence let every
 one that is guilty blush, and turn
 his Thoughts upon his own corrupt-
 ed Heart and Mind, and endeavour
 to reform that, which would be of
 infinite more Service to him than
 exposing the weak Side of his Neigh-
 bour and Benefactor.

For

For how abominable is it that every one who has got an Itch of writing, either to gratify a Passion of Revenge, or for Profit in the Sale of a Paper, to abuse the greatest Personages in the Kingdom? Nay Majesty itself not excepted, Bishops, and the Clergy, of all Ranks and Degrees, are made free with; and all this is called Liberty.

But happy would it be for the Nation, if deprived of this Branch of it. I think the Publishers as much culpable as the Authors, and the Readers not altogether free from Offence; for certainly it must proceed from a general Depravity of Manners, which gives Encouragement to such vile Actions.

I'm inform'd the Pamphleteers pay for the Copies, according to the Dignity and Quality of the Per-

son abus'd ; as suppose a Minister of State, ten Pounds at least ; whereas the gratest Earl or Duke, if he has no Place at Court, not more than five Pounds ; a Bishop, because so commonly defamed, two Guineas only, and so in Proportion for the inferiour Clergy ; a Judge, Lord of the Treasury or Admiralty, six or seven Pounds ; and for a private Gentleman, provide he deserves well of his King and Country, and famous for Acts of Virtue and Charity, four Pounds : But then the Scandal must be false, and yet appear flagrant, drest up with artful Inuendo's, else they'll not purchase it at those Prices. And these are the Wretches that would have Mankind believe they are Friends to their Country, and be deemed Patriots, &c. But surely no Man can be so far

far lost to common Sense, as to regard what those hireling Scriblers assert: Or if not performed by those four-Pair of Stairs Gentry, it must come from another Quarter equally as contemptible, *viz.* Gentlemen whose Demerit will not suffer to shine amongst the Grandees of the Kingdom, and so has Envy and Malice for its Prompter.

And thus because a certain great Man, who by his Wisdom and Conduct is become famous all over *Europe*, and is at the Helm of Affairs at Home, has given us Peace with all the Potentates Abroad, and secured the Ballance of Power to the *British* Empire; notwithstanding the Pains taken to perplex and distress his laudable Designs; why trust, by against this brave and honourable Gentleman have all the Terms of Infamy

famy been mustered, in order to level his Character with theirs.

A Man no sooner is disappointed in his Expectations of Preferment, but retires from Court into the Country, reads the *Craftsman* and *Fog*, meets a few disaffected Friends at a Tavern or Coffee-house, tells them they are made Slaves to a corrupt M——y, that the Nation in a small Time will be ruin'd, that we are upon the very Brink of Destruction, and unless he and the other pretended Patrons of their Country interpose by changing the Plot, they must all inevitably perish by Shipwreck.

And these ridiculous Chimera's for some Time had a good deal of Weight with the less thinking Part of Mankind, who believed every thing they advanced; but at last,
unhappy

unhappy for them, what they imagined would have crown'd all, ruin'd all; I mean the private Conversation*; for then People's Eyes were opened, and perceived it all proceeded from a Spirit of Malice and Revenge; so unfortunate were they in their Projects and Prognosticks, and yet hint in their Writings, that if they had been invested with the same Power this great Man was, if not by force of Arms, by dint of profound Wisdom, would long before this Time have given Laws to most of the Powers of *Europe*. Notwithstanding their ill Success in propagating what Mankind, through the Weakness and Depravity of human Nature, are so apt to receive,

viz.

* See a Book call'd, *An Answer to one Part of an infamous Libel, intituled, Remarks on the Craftsman's Indication of his Two Honourable Patrons.* Page 56.

viz. a Prejudice and ill Opinion of the Gentlemen in the Administration.

But this by the by ; I am sure they don't want any thing that I can say in their Vindication, being able to justify themselves in every Proceeding, before any who may be invested with a Power to take Cognizance of their Actions.

What I hereby mean is chiefly to expose that worst of all Vices Ingratitude, and shew how impious and base it is to wound the Reputation of our Fellow Creatures. Reputation ! or a good Character is what has supported and handsomely maintained vast Numbers of Men in all Ages, who perhaps had not any thing to bring up their Families with, which very often are large, and yet, by virtue of their Credit, have

have provided for them all, and di-
 ed as honourably as they lived, and
 by a good Example have done Ser-
 vice to after Ages; and of such im-
 portance is a good Name in general,
 that *Solomon*, the wisest of Men, de-
 clares it is better than * *Riches*, and
 that Gold is not to be compar'd with
 it; and our *English Homer*, *Shake-*
spear, is of the same Opinion in the
 following Lines †.

*Good Name in Man or Woman,
 Is the immediate Jewel of our Souls:
 Who steals my Parse, steals Trash;
 'tis something nothing;
 Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been
 Slave to Thousands:
 But he that filches from me my good
 Name,*

* Proverbs xxii.

† *Shakespeare.*

*Robs me of that which not enriches
him,
And makes me poor indeed.*

And it has been a Maxim in all polite Nations, that whoever was capable of forgetting a Benefit, or refusing when in his Power to do a good Office, should be look'd upon as an Enemy to Society, and as such abandon'd by the virtuous Part of Mankind. But if so, how ought we to look upon those People who with an unbridled Licentiousness, endeavour to blacken and load with Scandal the Characters not only of the common People, but even the most famous Men in the World; Men who by an indefatigable Industry, and studious Application to the polite Sciences, without View of arbitrary Power, or mercenary Gain, but only

ness to improve our natural Faculties, bring us acquainted with the valuable Treasures of natural Philosophy, and all Branches of mathematical Literature ?

Ought we not to behold them as the *Antediluvians* did *Cain* ; and although not distinguished by a peculiar Mark, yet to be as much aware of those secondary slayers of Men, as in the Time of Contagion, we should be of a Pest-house ? For there is less Danger of catching the Infection, than for a Person of bright Parts to escape the Agents of Darkneſs, whose chief Buſineſs is to ſcan the Characters of every one that is more than ordinary famous, in order to extend their Calumnies againſt them. Nay to ſo high a pitch of Wickedneſs are they now arriv'd, that nothing

thing is free from their Censure; not particular Sectaries of Religion, but even Christianity itself must be exploded, should Men regard their ignominious Assertions.

For to pass by the blasphemous *Woolstone*, with the less daring *T——d*, *T——*, and the noisy Trifler near *Clare-Market*, who for some Time has been Proof against Modesty, and every Degree of Virtue and Honour, we shall find Swarms of the second Rank, or as it were Nibblers in Scandal, who attack the less important Communities of Science, and take Pride in vending their little low Wit against the *Royal-Society*, *College of Physicians*, &c. Poor Wretches, who are scarce once removed from the common Herd, and justly verify the Observation of the great Mr. *Locke*, yet

yet *, would have Men take Notice of their Wit; which alafs! only tends to make themselves ridiculous. Or can they be so vain as imagine that for what they advance, we shall abate any thing in the high Opinion not only we, but the learned of all Nations have conceived of that great, learned and good Man † who presides, or the rest of that honourable and learned Body; who for a Series of Years have been so great an Ornament to the *English* Nation, that the most famous Men in *Europe* have thought it an Honour to be admitted Members thereof.

And no less honourable is the College of Physicians, being instituted for the Preservation of Mankind, that none should be admitted Members

* See his Essay upon Human Understanding.

† Honourable Sir *Hans Sloan*, Baronet.

bers to Practice, but those that are well recommended ; and that upon Examination appear to be Men of sound Judgment, good Morals, and well read in every Branch of that most noble Faculty ; and we have happily experienced the good Effects of it, in preventing our being impos'd upon by the illiterate and ignorant, yet great Pretenders to Wisdom and Science. And I think I may justly say without Vanity, that no University in *Europe* has made so good a Figure in the Republick of Letters, as the Members of this College : Whether we consider the Theory of Diseases, their Method of Cure, or the curious History of Plants, Animals, Minerals, &c. and especially in the latter ; that great Magazine of Learning and Curiosity from the New World of *America*,

are *rica*, * by the Honourable President,
 pon which will be a lasting Monument
 of to his Fame; a Work, which, be-
 and sides his other valuable Labours for
 that the Publick good, must needs ren-
 ave der his Name dear to all After Ages,
 ect and rank him with those noble Sa-
 im- ges *Hipocrates* and *Galen*. But to
 ig- return. It appears even to Demon-
 Vis- tration, that the true cause of all
 k- scandal and Asperſion, whether
 that made to reflect on Society or ſin-
 ade le Men, takes its riſe from diſap-
 lick pointed Ambition or Intereſt; for
 this pride the Forerunner, Envy and a
 the Thirſt of Revenge (theſe grand
 d of Characteriſticks of the Devil) the
 of followers, no wonder we ſee ſo
 and much Diſcord and Contradiſtion in
 reat the World, That

One

ica, * See Sir *Hans Sloan's* curious *Natural Hiſtory*.

One, Because not in the Administration, is resolved to Lampoon every one that is.

Another, Because not of the *Royal-Society*, will ridicule all their Transactions. And

A Third, Because not of the *College of Physicians*, will immediately Slander the whole Faculty.

And thus because *Pope* writes the best of any Man living, and all Men of Sense applaud his Verse, he has been set upon and defamed by the whole Tribe of Poetic Smatterers, who Copy more from *Billingsgate* than *Parnassus*, and instead of his sweet flowing Numbers, present us with an uncouth Jargon of Altercation; and for the Author's * Credit, I wish I had been prevented saying so of a late Piece, intituled, *Of Dulness*
and

* Mr. Welsted.

and Scandal, &c. wherein he accuseth Mr. Pope of bad Verse, want of Honour, and being an Enemy to Virtue and Wit. But as this is most notoriously false, as appears by the common Consent of Mankind, and particularly by that excellent Author of the *Universal Passion*, in following Lines *

*Why slumbers Pope, who leads the
tuneful Train,
And sees that Virtue which he loves
complain ?*

It justifies my taking Notice of it, as coming within our present Definition of Scandal, and for the rest I leave to the Authors of the *Grubstreet Journal* to correct, who

* Mr. Young.

D

have

have of late shewn a particular Aversion to ignorant Impudence in Authors; and we hope by a vigilant Prosecution of this their laudable Design, to have their Numbers very much reduc'd; more especially the Dealers in Blasphemy, Atheism, Deism, &c. as well as all Innovators in Religion*, licentious Rhimers, who style themselves Poets, and (if not below their Notice the Oratory Transactions; as being repugnant to Morality and Virtue and great Promoters of Irreligion and all manner of Prophaneness. That in Places of publick Conversation, we are hourly put in Pain for a Set of young Airy Gentlemen who either through want of Capacity, or being hurried away by their Passions,

* See their excellent Journal, N^o. 92. *Octob.* 7. relating to *Bowman*, the *Yorkshire* Vicar.

ver- Passions, will not give themselves
 Au- Time to think and examine whe-
 lan- ther what is offer'd be Right or
 able Wrong, but implicitly pursue what
 ve- most flatters their vicious Inclinati-
 ally ons ; and so swallow those Baits of
 the Destruction with Eagerness, that the
 In- wicked Authors contriv'd only for
 ous their own private Gain. And these
 Po- Notions being once imbib'd, the
 vice Poyson is as freely communicated by
 ing them to their Companions, that at
 tue present the Malady is become almost
 gion Epidemical, and I am afraid irreme-
 nefs diable, unless some able Pen, unpre-
 ver- judiced by Persuasion or Party,
 ain should daily, or at least weekly, ex-
 en- pose every thing offer'd the Pub-
 lick, that is inconsistent with Reli-
 gion, Duty, and good Manners;
 ons, and severely lash those Enemies of
 our

our Tranquillity and Happiness; which would be a general Preservative from those poisonous Insinuations, whether levell'd against Majesty, the Church, or our Fellow Subjects.

But I'm afraid I shall trespass too much upon your Patience; therefore only beg Leave to make two Observations more, and then put a Period to this Letter.

And first I observe, that all our Anti-Religionists, of whatsoever Denomination, whether Atheists, Free-Thinkers, or pretended Reasoners, (notwithstanding their vain Boastings) have not offer'd any System in the Room of that most excellent One at present Established, but what is apparently destructive of all Order and Harmony, and tends only to introduce Confusion and Misery

into the World. And any Person of common Understanding will soon be convinc'd of this Truth, by inspecting the Annals of the last Century, (unto which, I fear, the Taste of some Men of the present Times bears too great Analogy,) when, instead of making the Nation more happy, by introducing the whimsical Hypotheses's of that giddy-brain'd Age, under the specious Title of *Reformation*, which dazzled the Eyes of weak Men, they brought the whole Kingdom to the most lamentable State of Calamity and Misery that ever besel any People. And so far from being better'd in their Morals by this glaring Shew of Religion, that they appear to have been divested even of Humanity itself.

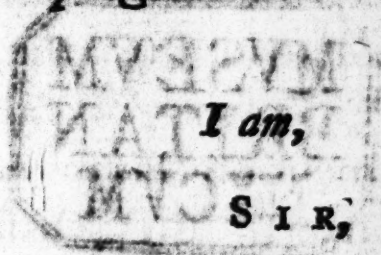
And

And from hence my second Observation naturally ariseth.

That, as in the Church, so likewise in the State, there will always be found an envious and dissatisfy'd Few, who labour to the Utmost of their Power to disturb its Tranquillity; yet, under the false Appellation of Patriotism, the better to impose upon weak Minds; for they dayly mention (and seemingly with Concern) the Misfortunes we labour under; when, at the same Time they are acting the Part of the greatest Enemy to the Nation. First, in exposing us to our foreign Enemies, whereby they take Advantage; and Secondly, by animating a Party-Faction at Home, in all Ages the greatest Bane of these Kingdoms. And thus it appears, that whilst there remains such a Spirit

Ob-rit of Slander and Detraction, with
a general Corruption of Manners,
like tis in vain to hope for true Felicity
ays in the World. So just is the Ob-
fy'd fervation of *Virgil*,

— *Redeunt Saturnia regna,
Cum nova progenies coelo dimittitur alto.*



I am,

S I R,

Your most Obedient

Humble Servant,

*Cheapside, LONDON,
January 27, 1731-2.*

T. F.

of Slander and Detraction, with
general Corruption of Manners,
is in vain to hope for true Felicity
in the World, so just is the Ob-
servation of Virgil,

Rebusz Natura regnat,
non voca proceres cœle dominantur æthæ.



Your most Obedient

Humble Servant,

T. P.